

## CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

<b>Project Name:</b> Karman Stockwater Pipeline	<b>Proposed Implementation Date:</b> June 1, 2013
<b>Proponent:</b> Karman Ranches, LLC	
<b>Type and Purpose of Action:</b> Construct a buried water pipeline across State land for approximately ¾ to 1 mile	
<b>Location:</b> W1/2W1/2 Sec. 36, T8N-R31E	<b>County:</b> Musselshell

### I. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

1.	PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, AGENCIES, GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS CONTACTED: Provide a brief chronology of the scoping and ongoing involvement for this project.	EQIP through NRCS, Billings office
2.	OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTION, LIST OF PERMITS NEEDED:	None
3.	ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED:	No Action; Change location; Project approval

### II. IMPACTS ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

RESOURCE		[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES N = Not present or No Impact will occur. Y = Impacts may occur (explain below)
4.	GEOLOGY AND SOIL QUALITY, STABILITY AND MOISTURE: Are fragile, compactible or unstable soils present? Are there unusual geologic features? Are there special reclamation considerations? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ N ] Stable, well-drained silty to sandy loam soils over colluviums derived from sedimentary rock and/or residuum weathered from sedimentary rock. No cumulative impacts expected from the proposal.
5.	WATER QUALITY, QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION: Are important surface or groundwater resources present? Is there potential for violation of ambient water quality standards, drinking water maximum contaminant levels, or degradation of water quality? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ N ] Proposed pipeline will be constructed on a gently rolling, upland range type away from any water resource. No negative impacts likely as this pipeline will create a water resource on adjacent deeded land to the west of this tract.
6.	AIR QUALITY: Will pollutants or particulate be produced? Is the project influenced by air quality regulations or zones (Class I airshed)? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ N ] No cumulative effects to air quality expected.
7.	VEGETATION COVER, QUANTITY AND QUALITY: Will vegetative communities be permanently altered? Are any rare plants or cover types present? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ N ] Very common short to mid-grass prairie. Some minor temporary impacts expected but the current good range condition should regenerate the disturbed area in relatively short order.
RESOURCE		[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
8.	TERRESTRIAL, AVIAN AND AQUATIC LIFE AND HABITATS: Is there substantial use of the area by important wildlife, birds or fish? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ N ] The new water source will benefit wildlife in the area as dependable water can be a limiting factor in drought years. Pronghorn Antelope with possibly Sharptail grouse, various songbirds and predators such as Raptors and Coyotes are species that most likely frequent the area.
9.	UNIQUE, ENDANGERED, FRAGILE OR LIMITED ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES: Are any federally listed threatened or endangered species or identified habitat present? Any wetlands? Sensitive Species or Species of special concern? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ N ] The proposed pipeline would cross land that is very typical of the area; mid to short grass prairie in very good condition. No sensitive species or habitats occur along the proposed pipeline route.
10.	HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES: Are any historical, archaeological or paleontological resources present?	[ N ] No cultural resources were found by SLO staff while walking the proposed route.
11.	AESTHETICS: Is the project on a prominent topographic feature? Will it be visible from populated or scenic areas? Will there be excessive noise or light? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ N ] Gently rolling prairie, very common to the overall area.
12.	DEMANDS ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES OF LAND, WATER, AIR OR ENERGY: Will the project use resources that are limited in the area? Are there other activities nearby that will affect the project? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ N ] If approved this project will provide a limited resource.

13.	OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS PERTINENT TO THE AREA: Are there other studies, plans or projects on this tract? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of other private, state or federal current actions w/n the analysis area, or from future proposed state actions that are under MEPA review (scoping) or permitting review by any state agency w/n the analysis area?	[ N ] The proposal is part of an NRCS EQIP plan which will create a three pasture grazing system where the new water source, derived from the proposed pipeline, will service all three pastures. Any cumulative impacts will be beneficial.
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III. IMPACTS ON THE HUMAN POPULATION		
RESOURCE		[Y/N] POTENTIAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES
14.	HUMAN HEALTH AND SAFETY: Will this project add to health and safety risks in the are?	[ N ]
15.	INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL AND AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PRODUCTION: Will the project add to or alter these activities?	[ N ]
16.	QUANTITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT: Will the project create, move or eliminate jobs? If so estimated number. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ N ]
17.	LOCAL AND STATE TAX BASE AND TAX REVENUES: Will the project create or eliminate tax revenue? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ N ]
18.	DEMAND FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICES: Will substantial traffic be added to existing roads? Will other services (fire protection, police, schools, etc) be needed? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ N ]
19.	LOCALLY ADOPTED ENVIRONMENTAL PLANS AND GOALS: Are there State, County, City, USFS, BLM, Tribal, etc. zoning or management plans in effect?	[ N ]
20.	ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF RECREATIONAL AND WILDERNESS ACTIVITIES: Are wilderness or recreational areas nearby or accessed through this tract? Is there recreational potential within the tract? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ Y ] The tract has access from a county road at its NE corner. The proposal should not limit the recreational potential of the tract in any way.
21.	DENSITY AND DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION AND HOUSING: Will the project add to the population and require additional housing? Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ N ]
22.	SOCIAL STRUCTURES AND MORES: Is some disruption of native or traditional lifestyles or communities possible?	[ N ]
23.	CULTURAL UNIQUENESS AND DIVERSITY: Will the action cause a shift in some unique quality of the area?	[ N ]
24.	OTHER APPROPRIATE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CIRCUMSTANCES: Is there a potential for other future uses for easement area other than for timber management? Is future use hypothetical? What is the estimated return to the trust. Are cumulative impacts likely to occur as a result of this proposed action?	[ N ]

EA Checklist Prepared By:	Gary Brandenburg	SLO Land Use Specialist	May 1, 2013
	Name	Title	Date

IV. FINDING

25. ALTERNATIVE SELECTED:

Project approval

26. SIGNIFICANCE OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS:

Development of the water resource will work as a management tool to enhance the distribution of livestock and utilization of forage while at the same time provide a dependable water source for wildlife.

27. Need for Further Environmental Analysis:

☐ EIS      ☐ More Detailed EA      ☒ No Further Analysis

EA Checklist Approved By:

Matt Wolcott

SLO Area Manager

Name

Title

Signature

Date